

The Inaugural Mid-Atlantic Community Labs Workshop

An invitation

In recognition of the growing presence of DIYBio and Citizen Science around the world, specifically in the mid-Atlantic region, Charlottesville Open Bio Labs invites all the community labs and those who wish to build a community lab to a 2-day workshop to foster inter-community collaboration and to establish an official presence in the eyes of local and state government.

Where: Charlottesville Open Bio Labs
300 West Main Street, B101
Charlottesville, VA 22903

When: Saturday, July 29th 2017 - Sunday, July 30th, 2017

Points of Contact: Shaun Moshasha (moshasha@openbiolabs.org), Beth Tuck (elizabeth.tuck@gmail.com), Elliot Roth (e@drinkspira.com)

The growth of DIY Bio and Citizen Science has been accelerating over the past decade, thanks to a confluence of factors including, but not limited to, the democratization of knowledge, the emergence of crowdsourcing, and the plummeting cost of equipment. In December 2010, GenSpace was the first to recognize these trends and created a space that invited the public to get involved with biology and high tech science. Since then, we have witnessed the emergence of over 100 such community laboratories across the world. These labs are quickly becoming keystones in their local communities, serving as hubs for innovation, tech development, education and community engagement. As our community matures, we need to collaborate so we can share best practices and learn from each other, help each other grow and plan for the future, and develop a cohesive identity with which to present to the community, businesses, foundations, and the government. Community labs are serving an increasingly important role in facilitating economic development, shaping the discussion regarding transparency and open access, and transforming the educational landscape with relevant and hands on learning.

By coming together during this workshop, we hope to facilitate collaboration between the community labs in order to both strengthen each of our individual labs and to build a unified front when presenting ourselves to the public.

The three primary deliverables we aim to complete at the end of this workshop are:

1. Develop a strategic plan tailored to each lab with 3 month, 6 month and 1 year milestones. We will identify the strengths and weaknesses of each of our labs, understanding how each of our unique contexts and the founding individuals are reflective of the strengths and weaknesses. From there, we will develop best

practices for each of the areas of lab development, growth and maintenance. Any insights that we derive can be fed back into <http://openlab-blueprint.org/> to be used by other labs starting up.

2. Develop a cohesive communications strategy, including the development of a brand. Identify all the potential questions that the community, businesses, governments, and potential funders would have for our labs and develop canned responses for them. Develop a communications strategy between the labs to facilitate collaboration.
3. Develop a plan to the hypothetical question "If you were given \$5-10K right now, what would you do with it?"

The same weekend, the University of Virginia's iGEM team will be holding a regional meetup. We hope to leverage this event, in conjunction with this community lab workshop, to show the growing prevalence of Synthetic Biology, DIY Bio, and Citizen Science in Virginia and the surrounding region. To this end, the iGEM teams and the community labs will be spending 3 hours together on Saturday, the 29th from 2:30-5:30pm to address the question of how iGEM teams and Community Labs can work together to advance the goals of translating iGEM projects into actual products and real world applications. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Meeting Agenda

July 29 Meeting - Regional iGEM Teams & Community Labs

- 9:00am-1:00pm- Community Labs and iGEM Teams breakout sessions.
 - Define metrics for success for a community lab.
 - Identify where each of the labs are in relation to those metrics
 - Identify the strengths and weaknesses for each lab.
 - Identify the ideal 3, 6 and 12 month milestones for each lab.
- 1:00-2:30pm- Lunch
- 2:30-5:30pm- Community Labs and iGEM teams working together to address the following question: How can iGEM and Community Labs work together to advance e goals of translating iGEM projects into actual products and real world applications.
- 5:30-6:00pm- Closing Speaker
- 6:00-8:00pm- Social at Open Bio Labs

July 30th Meeting - Community Labs Only

- 9:00am-1:00pm- Develop action plans for how to accomplish the 3, 6 and 12 month milestones
 - Each lab answer the hypothetical \$5-10K question.
 - Identify a grant/other source of funding we can apply to individually and collectively.
- 1:00-2:30pm- Lunch
- 2:30-5:00pm- Communications
 - Branding, External Communications plan, Internal Communications plan